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Big news, *CSI* fans!

Entertainment Weekly reports that **William Petersen**'s character on *CSI*, Gil Grissom, will be gone by mid-season.

"Billy is leaving," confirms the show's executive producer, "But he will remain throughout the run of the series an executive producer. And he will, whenever CBS asks, come back. I don't think you've seen the last of Gil Grissom."

Petersen tells the mag, "I'm in a great place in terms of knowing that I'll be more free to make choices. And I'm responsible enough to not do it in a way that would hurt [the show]. I want it to work for the writers, I want it to work for the cast, and, MOST importantly, I want it to work for the audience. I don't want them to abandon the show."